

Potsdam, 25.02.2026

## Press Release

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*Convenience English translation. The original German version remains the official one.*

### **Prospects for a vibrant University of Potsdam campus: Task Force reviews progress on plans for Brauhausberg**

**The State of Brandenburg, the University of Potsdam, the Hasso Plattner Foundation and the City of Potsdam are working intensively with other key stakeholders on plans for the construction of a new campus for the University of Potsdam on Brauhausberg. At the same time, the State government is preparing amendments to the Brandenburg Higher Education Law to accelerate appointment procedures for professorships and to simplify student admissions.**

A Task Force chaired by Minister-President Dr. Dietmar Woidke and Hasso Plattner is overseeing the major project to build the new Brauhausberg campus as the fourth location of the University of Potsdam and to expand the Hasso Plattner Institute and the jointly operated Digital Engineering Faculty at the Griebnitzsee campus. At its third meeting today, the Task Force discussed the progress made by its two working groups, “Planning and Building” and “Teaching and Research Cooperation.” Potsdam’s new Lord Mayor, Noosha Aubel, participated for the first time.

Minister-President Dr. Dietmar Woidke: “Where political activity once prevailed, student life will soon take shape. We are now working together toward the concrete implementation of a future-oriented university campus on the site of the former State parliament building on Brauhausberg. Step by step, we are realizing a unique project for Potsdam as a science hub, for the State of Brandenburg, and beyond. We share the goal of setting standards across Europe with the new Brauhausberg Campus and the expanded Griebnitzsee Campus.”

Hasso Plattner emphasized: “We are not talking about a distant future. We are building it now. The pace at which the Task Force is working shows that everyone involved is aware that we have no time to lose if Potsdam is to become one of the leading locations for computer science and artificial intelligence in Europe. To achieve this, we need a university that can compete with the best in the world in research, in teaching, and in the speed at which it attracts the best talent. That is exactly what we are driving forward.”

Lord Mayor Noosha Aubel added: “The progress in the planning process demonstrates the enormous potential of this development. Potsdam’s science landscape is gaining visibility and appeal as the Hasso Plattner Institute grows into a European center for the digital sciences and a new, state-of-the-art campus for the University of Potsdam is created on Brauhausberg. At the same time, this opens up big

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opportunities for urban development in the city of Potsdam. Student life will visibly return to the city center and the former State parliament building, a protected historic site, will be preserved and transformed into a vibrant and future-oriented public space.”

Minister-President Woidke thanked the City of Potsdam for the comprehensive participation and planning process, which includes citizens and local politicians.

## Topics of the 3rd meeting of the Task Force

### Designing the Brauhausberg Campus

Three urban-planning design variants for a future university campus on the Brauhausberg were presented on 29 January 2026 to the public, giving interested parties the opportunity to comment. The three concepts translated the university’s space requirements into buildings of varying heights and spatial connections between structures of varying degrees of complexity. All three concepts include **150 student housing units**. Feedback and expert perspectives are now being discussed in two urban-planning workshops. The aim is to define a preferred urban planning variant by May, which will then serve as a basis for the development plan.

### Amending the Higher Education Law

An amendment to the Higher Education Law (*Brandenburgisches Hochschulgesetz, BbgHG*) aims to significantly accelerate the appointment of new professors. All higher-education institutions across Brandenburg are expected to benefit from the new regulation. Internationally renowned researchers could be appointed through an extraordinary procedure within two months, whereas appointments at German universities currently often take up to two years. Admissions regulations would be modernized to allow universities greater flexibility in selecting suitable students, thereby improving academic success and attracting top talent to Brandenburg. The draft bill is expected to be adopted by the Cabinet at the end of March and could then be passed by the State parliament before summer recess.

In addition to the Task Force’s agenda items, student housing was a topic of discussion. At least 150 new student housing units will be created on the Brauhausberg campus. In addition, the Studierendenwerk West:Brandenburg is planning and building more accommodations across Potsdam. By 2028, more than 800 new housing units will have been built under its responsibility, increasing student housing capacity in the State capital by about one third.

### Background:

In June 2025, the State of Brandenburg, the University of Potsdam, and the Hasso Plattner Foundation signed a **Letter of Intent** for this major project and established the Task Force in July. The State government is represented at ministerial level in both the Task Force and its working groups.

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The working groups “Planning and Building” and “Teaching and Research Cooperation” are chaired by Minister of the Interior René Wilke and Minister of Science Dr. Manja Schüle. Finance Minister Robert Crumbach is also a member of the Task Force. In addition, the Task Force includes the University of Potsdam, represented by its President Professor Oliver Günther, the Hasso Plattner Foundation, and the City of Potsdam.

The new university campus on the Brauhausberg aims to set international standards in research and teaching. At the same time, the University of Potsdam’s existing sites in Golm and at the Neues Palais will be strengthened to create modern, future-oriented study conditions throughout the city.

With the expansion of the Hasso Plattner Institute and the jointly operated Digital Engineering Faculty with the University of Potsdam, Brandenburg aims to make a significant contribution to Europe’s digital sovereignty. The Digital Engineering Faculty will introduce additional master’s programs, expand international partnerships, and strengthen research, particularly in the field of artificial intelligence.